

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

H-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11 TRSE-00

ACDA-19 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SY-10 USSS-00 CPR-02 IO-13

OMB-01 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 049683

P R 241841Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3991

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

DEFENSE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO OVIP

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: ICELAND FONMIN'S VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON

REF: REYKJAVIK 1106 AND AMBASSADOR-EUR/NE ANDREWS TELECON  
SEPT 21

1. FONMIN AGUSTSSON AGREEABLE WASHINGTON MEETINGS AS OUTLINED  
REF TELECON. HIS DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON WILL BE LIMITED  
TO HIMSELF, AMB KROYER AND LEGAL ADVISOR HANS ANDERSEN.  
HE PREFERS SMALL BUSINESSLIKE SESSIONS. HE DEPARTS ICELAND FOR  
UN SEPT 27 AND WILL PLAN FLY FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON  
MORNING OF OCTOBER 3 FOR TALKS, RETURNING TO NEW YORK  
LATE AFTERNOON OR EVENING OCT 4. HE WILL NOT (RPT NOT) VISIT  
NORFOLK. ALTHOUGH HIS WIFE TRAVELING WITH HIM TO NEW YORK SHE  
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WILL NOT ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON.

2. DURING OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY I ADVISED HIM THAT BECAUSE IDF OPERATIONS ARE COMPLEX WHICH REQUIRE SEARCHING STUDY, NEGOTIATIONS WILL MOST LIKELY EXTEND OVER SEVERAL MONTHS WELL INTO DECEMBER AND POSSIBLY LATER. OUR POSTURE, HOWEVER, IS ONE OF OPTIMISM, AND WITH FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH SIDES WE BELIEVE AN ACCOMMODATION CAN BE REACHED WHICH BOTH SAFEGUARDS THE BASIC MISSION OF THE IDF AND IS RESPONSIVE TO HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. I ALSO ADVISED HIM NOT TO EXPECT A TOTAL PACKAGE OF CONCESSIONS FROM US AT WASHINGTON MEETING AND THAT HE SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH RECEIVING FROM US OUR APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM AND PERHAPS STATUS REPORT ON WHERE WE STAND IN OUR STUDIES OF IDF FUNCTIONS. I TOLD HIM I DOUBTED WE COULD TALK NUMBERS AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE REMARKED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO TALK SOME NUMBERS; THAT THE IDF RETENTION ISSUE IS NOT SO MUCH A MILITARY QUESTION IN THE EYES OF ICELANDIC OFFICIALS AS IT IS A POLITICAL MATTER WITH THE SOLUTION BEING NUMBERS. HE SAID HE WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO ICELAND SAYING HE TALKED NUMBERS AND MAY HAVE TO GIVE SOME IDEA OF OUR THINKING. AS AN EXAMPLE HE ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TELL HIM THE EFFECT ON MILITARY MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IF ICELAND ENACTED AN OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE SAID THAT UNLESS HE RETURNED WITH A FEELING THAT SOMETHING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, WE MIGHT FIND AN UNCOMPROMISING SITUATION FACING US IN SUBSEQUENT TALKS. (COMMENT: HE WAS ALLUDING TO THE SCHEME WHICH THE TWO COMMUNIST MINISTERS TRIED TO PUSH THROUGH THE CABINET LAST WEEK CALLING FOR AN OLL MINISTER AND A PA (COMMUNIST) MINISTER TO ACCOMPANY AGUSTSSON TO WASHINGTON. IT WAS MINISTER BJORN JONSSON WHO PREVENTED THIS CATASTROPHE).

3. I ASKED AGUSTSSON WHAT SUGGESTIONS HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE IN THE WASHINGTON MEETING AND WHAT ACTIONS HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO HIS GOVT IN ORDER TO REACH AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TO THE IDF RETENTION ISSUE. HIS REPLY WAS NOT NEW. HE SAID HE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF WE ACTED IN THE MEETING AS IF WE HAD NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY HIS OFT-REPEATED ADMONITION THAT THERE MUST BE A REDUCTION OF 1000 IN MILITARY MANPOWER. NEW, HOWEVER, IS A REMARK HE THEN MADE THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE CONVINCED THAT 1000 IS AN IMPOSSIBLE NUMBER, PROVIDED

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THE NUMBER WE SUGGEST CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED "SUBSTANTIAL IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT." I REPEATED THAT I DOUBTED AT THIS STAGE WE COULD TALK TOTAL NUMBERS BECAUSE IT WOULD DEPEND ON STUDIES STILL UNDERWAY. AS FOR THE SECOND PART OF MY QUESTION, NAMELY WHAT ACTIONS HE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND ICELAND UNDERTAKE, HE REPLIED HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HEAR ANY SUGGESTIONS ALONG THOSE LINES WE WOULD CARE TO MAKE BUT WHETHER HE PURSUES THEM OR NOT WILL DEPEND ON HOW MANY MILITARY CAN BE

REDUCED THEREBY. AGUSTSSON COULD NOT DEFINE WHAT HE MEANT BY  
A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF REDUCTIONS "IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT."

4. AGUSTSSON REMARKED THAT SIGURDUR GIZURARSON'S RECENT TRIP  
TO WASHINGTON WAS DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE HE RETURNED TO ICELAND  
"BRAINWASHED" AND WITH NO SPECIFICS TO HAVE JUSTIFIED THE TRIP.  
(COMMENT: FROM USG POINT OF VIEW TRIP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
SUCCESSFUL. GIZURARSON TOLD ME HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH CON-  
TINUED NEED TO RETAIN IDF AND BRIEFING HE RECEIVED ON PERSONNEL  
SECURITY SYSTEMS.)

5. UNLESS DEPT DETERMINES OTHERWISE, I SHALL ARRIVE DEPT MOR-  
NING OCT 1 AND PLAN REMAIN ENTIRE WEEK.  
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